



Paul Helliher
Director

Department of Pesticide Regulation



Gray Davis
Governor
Winston H. Hickox
Secretary, California
Environmental
Protection Agency

July 8, 2003

WHS 03-05

TO: COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: APPROVED CHOLINESTERASE TESTING LABORATORIES

Attached is the current list of Laboratories Approved to Perform Cholinesterase Testing for Occupational Health Surveillance, dated July 1, 2003. Please note that the total number of laboratories approved to perform analysis for blood cholinesterase for the medical supervision program has been reduced from 20 to nine.

In May 1999, a new regulation (3 CCR 6728) required that only laboratories meeting specific analytical criteria could be used in the medical supervision program. All laboratories analyzing blood cholinesterase (ChE) for the medical supervision program must report the results in the same units. Prior to 1999, different laboratories reported ChE in different units depending on the analytical method used. By reporting in different units, health professionals and regulatory officials were often unable to compare baseline ChE results to illness results, if the blood was analyzed at different laboratories. Since that time, staff from the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and Department of Health Services (DHS) with invaluable assistance from Dr. Barry Wilson at UC Davis, have been working with the laboratories to help them comply with the regulatory requirements. Reasons for a shorter list of ChE labs include: some labs decided not to participate in the comparison studies; some labs could not meet the regulatory requirements for the comparison study results; and some labs are still working on compliance. The laboratories on the new list meet the analytical criteria set forth in 3 CCR 6728. This list is also available on the DPR website at: <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/whs/lablist.htm>.

Since the list of approved laboratories is much shorter, you may want to contact employers in your county to ensure that their medical supervisor uses an approved laboratory to analyze blood cholinesterase.

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If you have any questions about the list of approved laboratories, please contact Frank Barley, Ph.D., at the Environmental Health Laboratory Branch, of DHS, at (510) 540-2788. Questions about the regulatory requirements for the laboratories analyzing blood cholinesterase for the medical supervision program should be directed to Marylou Verder-Carlos at (916) 324-4204, or mverder@cdpr.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED BY]

Charles M. Andrews, Chief
Worker Health and Safety Branch
(916) 445-4222

Attachment

cc: Frank Barley, Ph.D., Research Scientist, DHS
Mr. Scott T. Paulsen, Chief, DPR Enforcement Branch
Ms. Marylou Verder-Carlos, WH&S Branch
Mr. Daniel J. Merkley, Agricultural Commissioner Liaison



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



GRAY DAVIS
Governor

This List Dated **July 1, 2003**, Replaces and Supersedes
The Previous List Dated January 1, 2003.

Laboratories Approved for Cholinesterase Testing for Occupational Health Surveillance
Reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 3, Section 6728(f)

LABORATORY	COUNTY	TESTING DONE ON-SITE	METHOD
Kern			
Physicians Automated Laboratory, Inc. 2801 H Street Bakersfield, CA 93301 Attn: Bruce Smith Phone: (661) 325-0744 FAX: (661) 327-9163		Yes	Colorimetric
Kings			
Corcoran District Hospital Laboratory 1310 Hanna Avenue Corcoran, CA 93212 Attn: Ronnie Bico Phone: (559) 992-5051, x351 FAX: (559) 992-3972		(a.)	
Los Angeles			
Pacific Toxicology Laboratories 6160 Variel Avenue Woodland Hills, CA 91367 Attn: Linda Aston, Ph.D. Phone: (818) 598-3110, x107 FAX: (818) 598-3116		Yes	Colorimetric

Footnote (a.) Corcoran District Hospital Laboratory performs the plasma cholinesterase test on-site using a colorimetric method. The RBC test is referred to a different approved laboratory.

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LABORATORY	COUNTY	TESTING DONE ON-SITE	METHOD
Monterey			
George L. Mee Memorial Hospital 300 Canal Street King City, CA 93930 Attn: Keith Andrews Phone: (831) 385-7212 FAX: (831) 385-5399		Yes	Colorimetric
Orange			
Quest Diagnostics Incorporated Nichols Institute 33608 Ortega Highway San Juan Capistrano, CA 92690-6130 Attn: Sandy Burns Phone: (949) 728-4629 FAX: (949) 728-4860		Yes	Colorimetric
Sacramento			
Unilab 3714 Northgate Boulevard Sacramento, CA 95834 Attn: Pam Kirkbride Phone: (916) 927-9900, x8440 FAX: (916) 927-1492		Yes	Colorimetric
Tulare			
Sierra View District Outpatient Laboratory 263 N. Pearson, Suite 102 Porterville, CA 93257 Attn: Dave Workman Phone: (559) 784-7852 FAX: (559) 784-0614		Yes	Colorimetric

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LABORATORY	COUNTY	TESTING DONE ON-SITE	METHOD
STATE			
Kansas			
LabOne, Inc. 10101 Renner Blvd. Lenexa, KS 66219 Attn: Debby Bjerkan Phone: (913) 577-1516 FAX: (913) 894-9029		Yes	Colorimetric
Clinical Reference Laboratory, Inc. 8433 Quivira Road Lenexa, KS 66215 Attn: Robert Stout, Ph.D. Phone: (913) 492-3652		Yes	Colorimetric
Utah			
ARUP Laboratories 500 Chipeta Way Salt Lake City, UT 84108 Attn: Dov Siporin Phone: (801) 583-2787, x3100 FAX: (801) 583-2712		Yes	Colorimetric